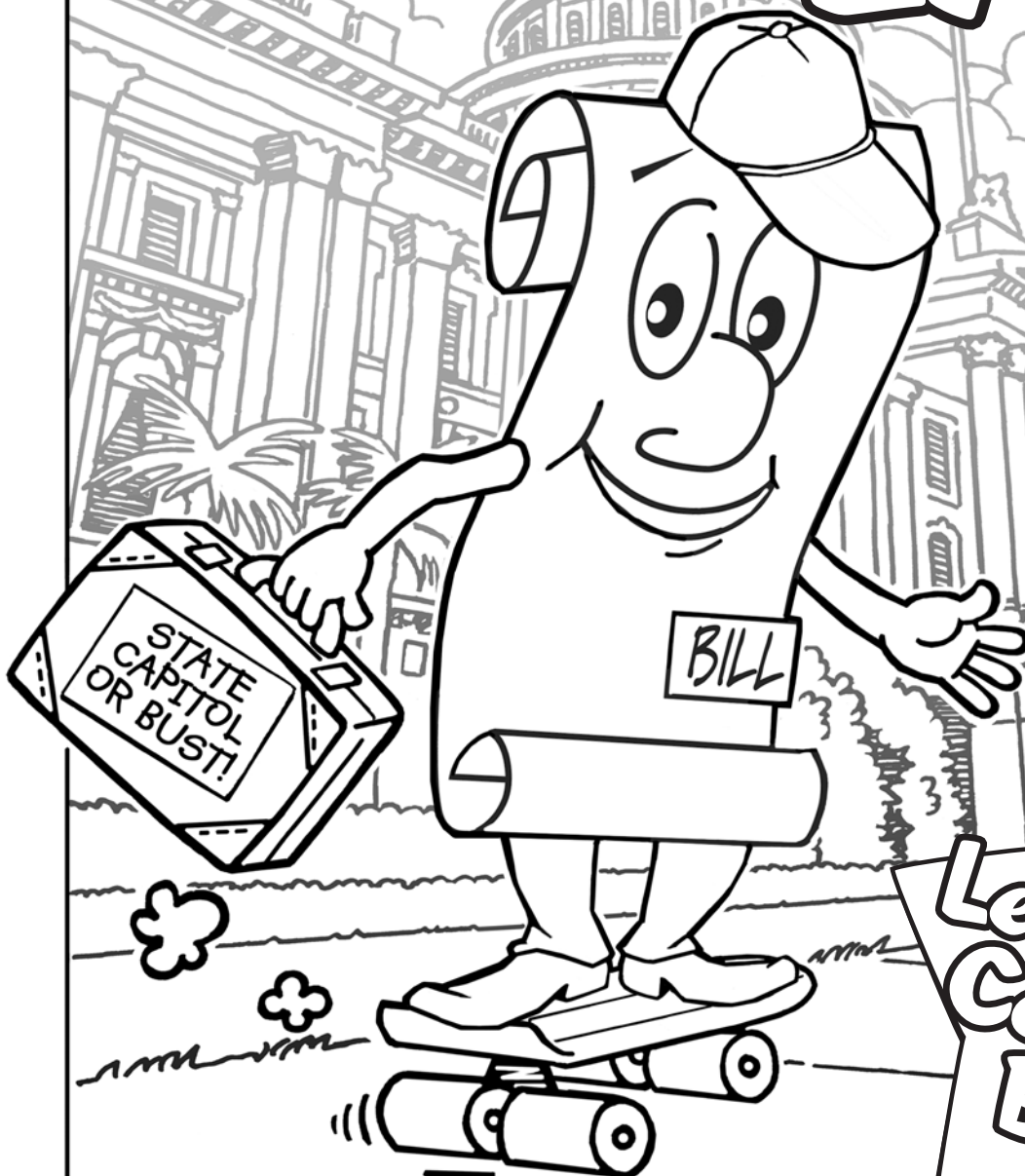


HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



A
Legislative
Coloring
Book



California State Assembly

MARIKO YAMADA

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 8TH DISTRICT

Dear Kids:

Ever wonder how a law is made? If you ever thought that there ought to be a law to change things for the better, then you are in for a treat. The following coloring book shows you how a bill can become a new law.

Every year thousands of ideas to change existing laws or add new laws are presented in the State Legislature. These ideas are written on a paper that is then called a "bill." Not all bills automatically become new laws. Bills need to be debated and voted on by your state representatives – Assemblymembers and Senators. If a bill passes through all its committees, the Senate, the Assembly and is signed by the Governor, then it becomes a new law.

To learn more, just follow your host "Bill." He comes up with a fun idea, makes it into a bill and moves it through the Legislature.

Good luck and have fun learning about turning a good idea into a new law.

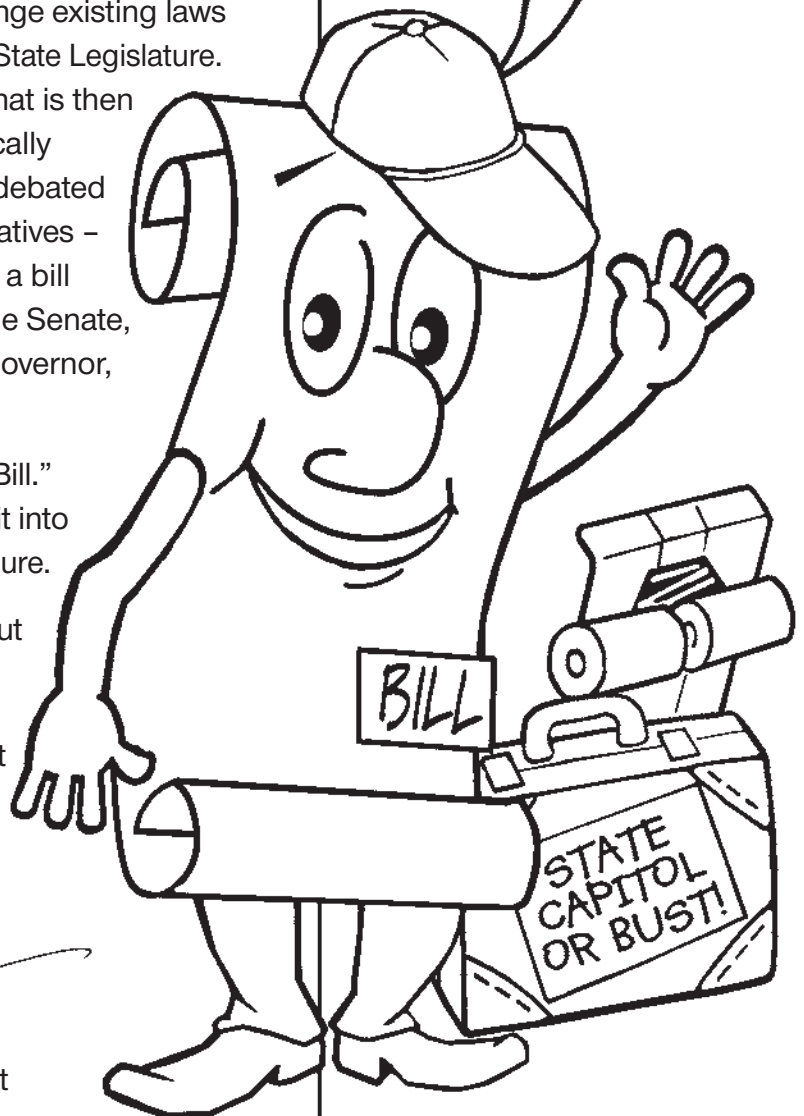
For more information, please contact my office at (707) 455-8025.

Sincerely,

MARIKO YAMADA

Assemblymember, 8th District

Hey Kids!
I'm Bill—your guide
through the maze of
California government.
Today I'm going to
show you how new
laws are made.





LEGISLATIVE

Two

branches of government are involved in making a new law: the Legislative Branch (the Senate and Assembly) and the Executive Branch (the Governor). The Senate has 40 Senators, and the Assembly has 80 Assemblymembers.

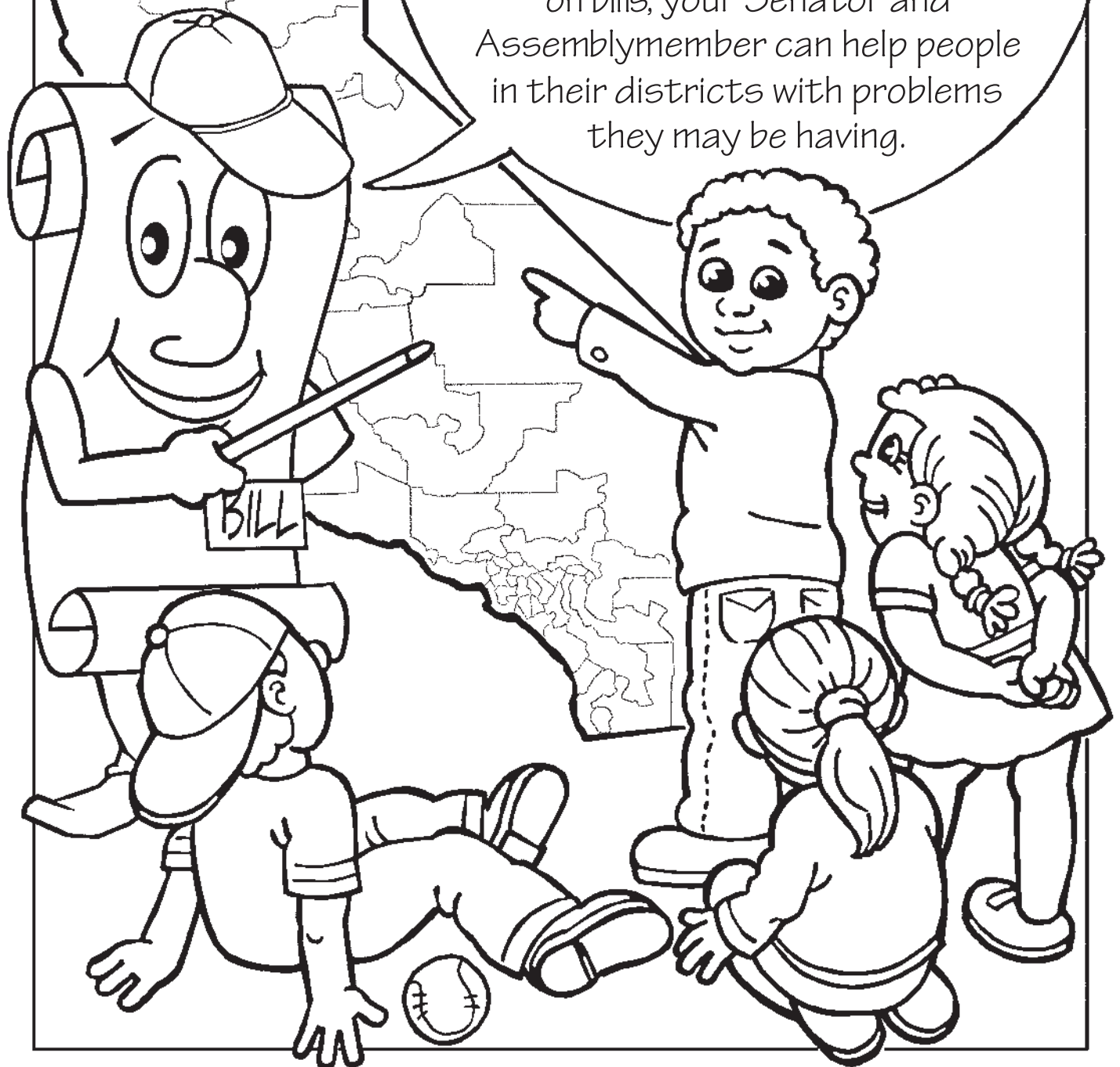
Each Senator and Assemblymember gets to vote on bills.



EXECUTIVE

CALIFORNIA Assembly Districts

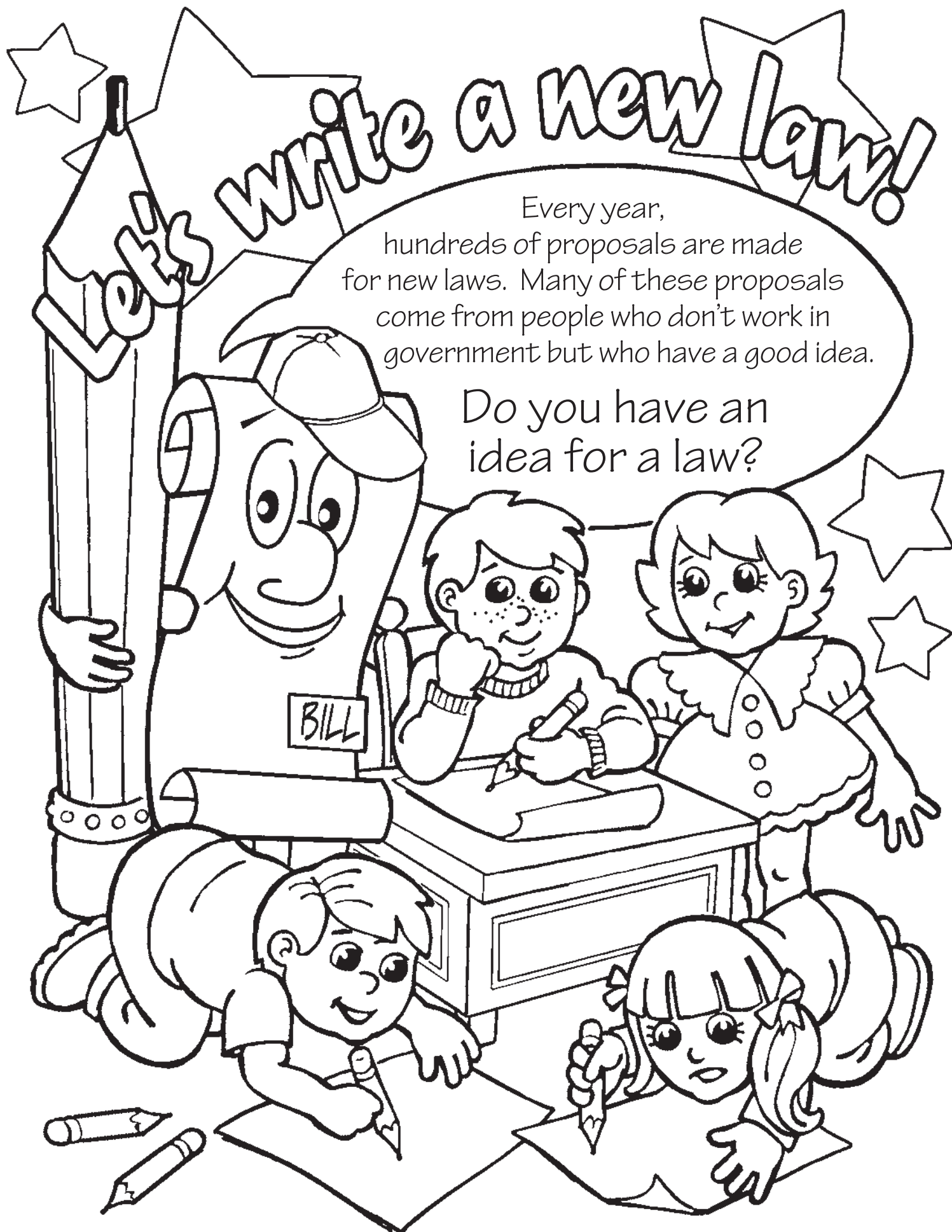
Each Senator and Assemblymember represents a different part of California (called a district). The part of California you live in (your district) is represented by one Senator and one Assemblymember. Besides voting on bills, your Senator and Assemblymember can help people in their districts with problems they may be having.



Let's write a new law!

Every year,
hundreds of proposals are made
for new laws. Many of these proposals
come from people who don't work in
government but who have a good idea.

Do you have an
idea for a law?



Hey!

How about a law requiring
better nutrition in all schools??

Now that we have an idea, we need to
find a Senator or Assemblymember to
be the author of a bill based on our idea.

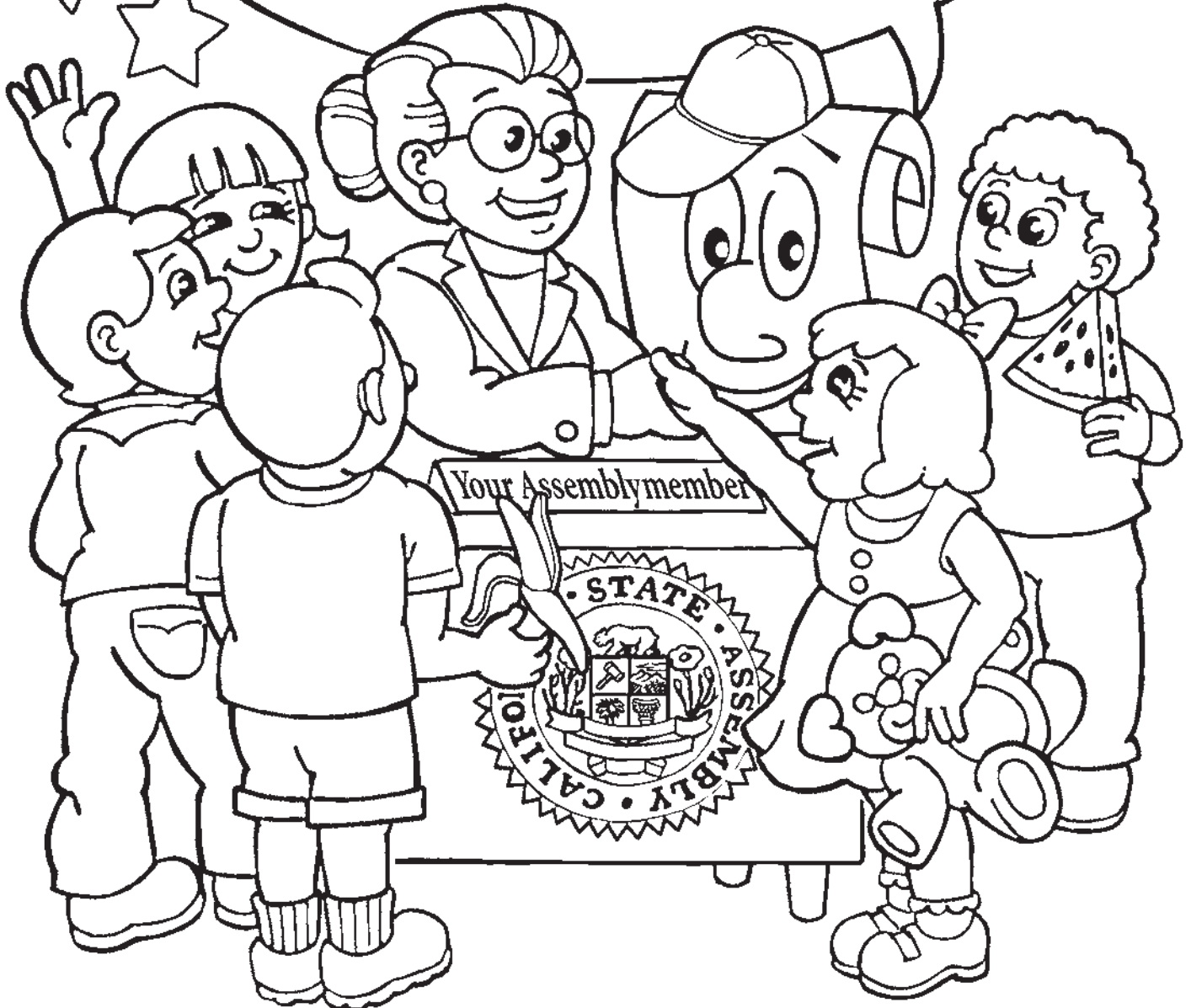
We can start by asking the Senator
or Assemblymember from
our district.



Bill finds an author

It looks like your Assemblymember agreed to be the author of the school nutrition bill!

The author of the bill will introduce it, and it will be given a number. Let's call the school nutrition bill Assembly Bill 101 (AB 101 for short). AB 101 will now be assigned to a committee for discussion.



An Assembly Committee

is a small group of Assemblymembers.

Committees hold public hearings where anyone can come and discuss a bill. There are many committees, each discussing bills on specific subjects — for example, one committee will discuss bills about cars and one committee will discuss bills about doctor visits. A bill could also be discussed by more than one committee.



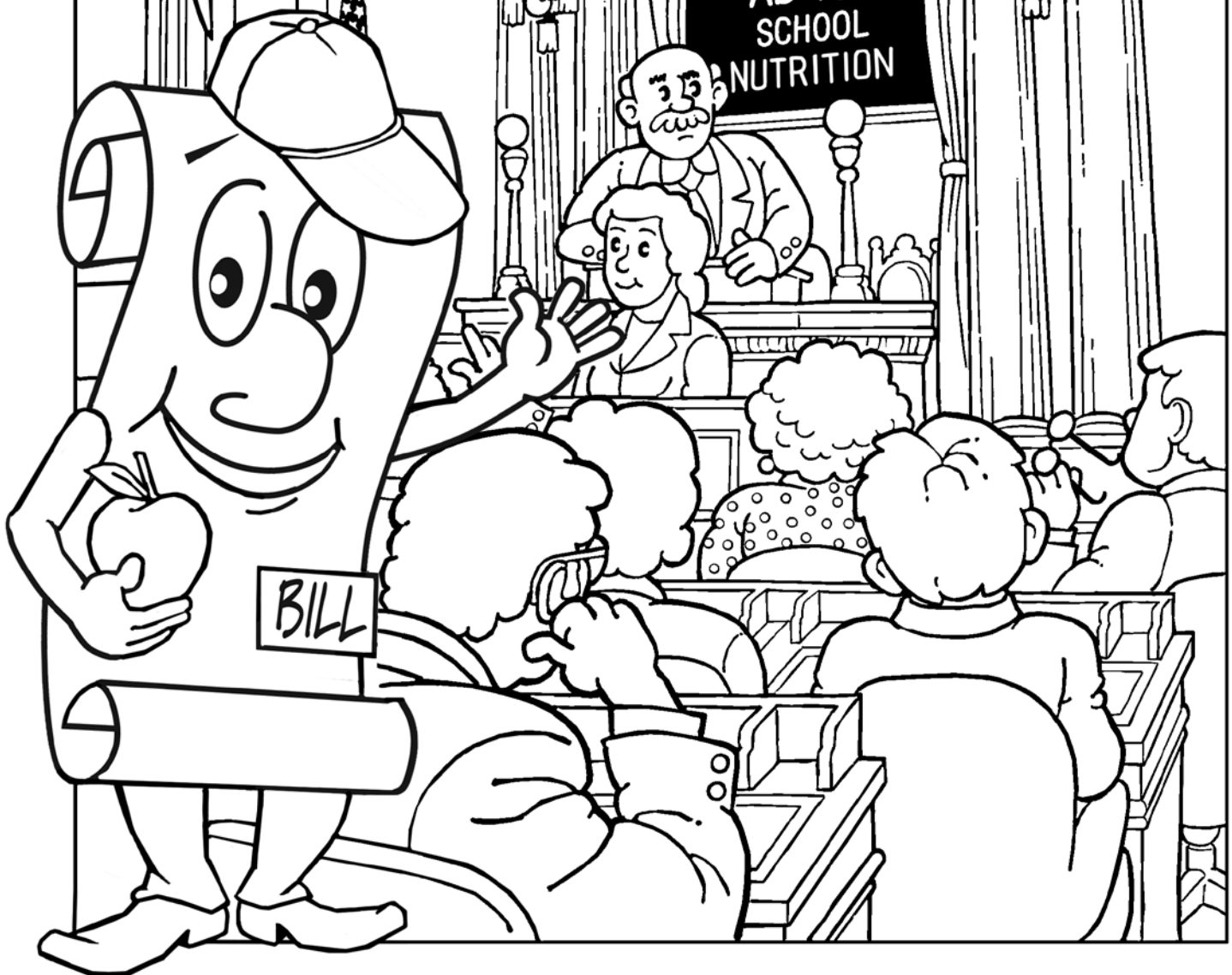
After a bill is discussed at a hearing,
the committee members vote on whether
it would be a good law. If the majority of the
committee's members like the bill, they pass it and
send it to the full Assembly for another vote.

Guess what? The committee liked
the school nutrition bill.

AB 101 has passed!



All 80 Assemblymembers meet to discuss AB 101. If the majority of them like the bill, it is passed on to the Senate, where it will go through the same process all over again, but if a majority vote against the bill, it fails. It stays in the Assembly and does not become a new law.



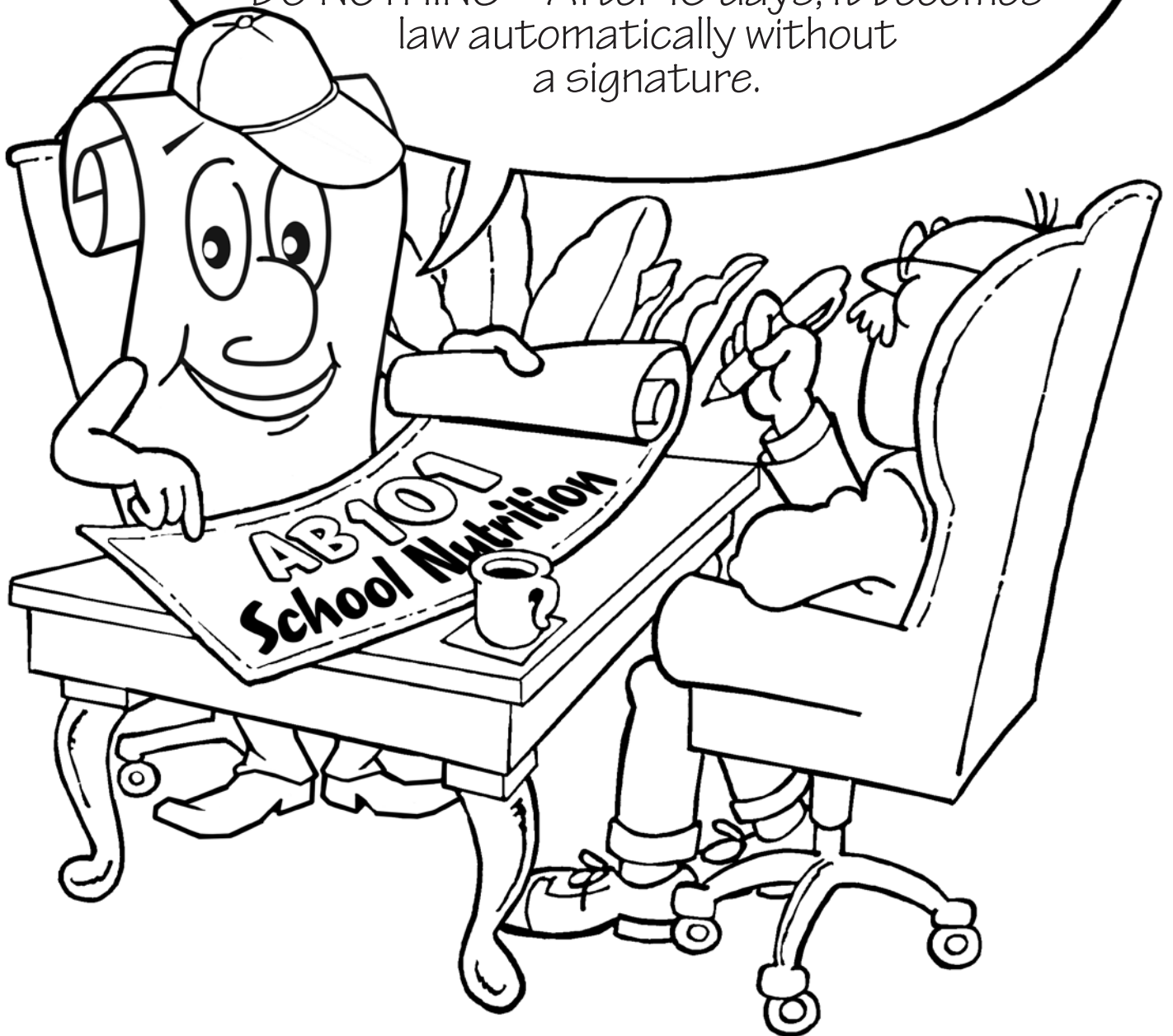
AB 101 becomes a law!

If AB 101 gets passed by both the Assembly and Senate, it will be sent to the Governor. There are three things the Governor can do with your bill.

SIGN IT – It becomes law.

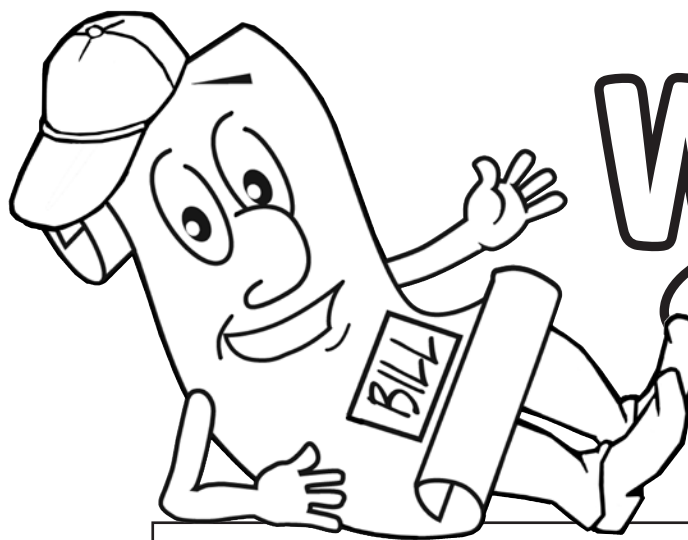
VETO IT – It does not become law.

DO NOTHING – After 10 days, it becomes law automatically without a signature.



If AB 101 becomes law, it will take effect on January 1st of the next year. There will be better nutrition in California schools, all because you thought up the idea! Wasn't that simple? Help us think of new ways of making California a better and healthier place to live, and write to your Assemblymember with your bill ideas.





Word Search

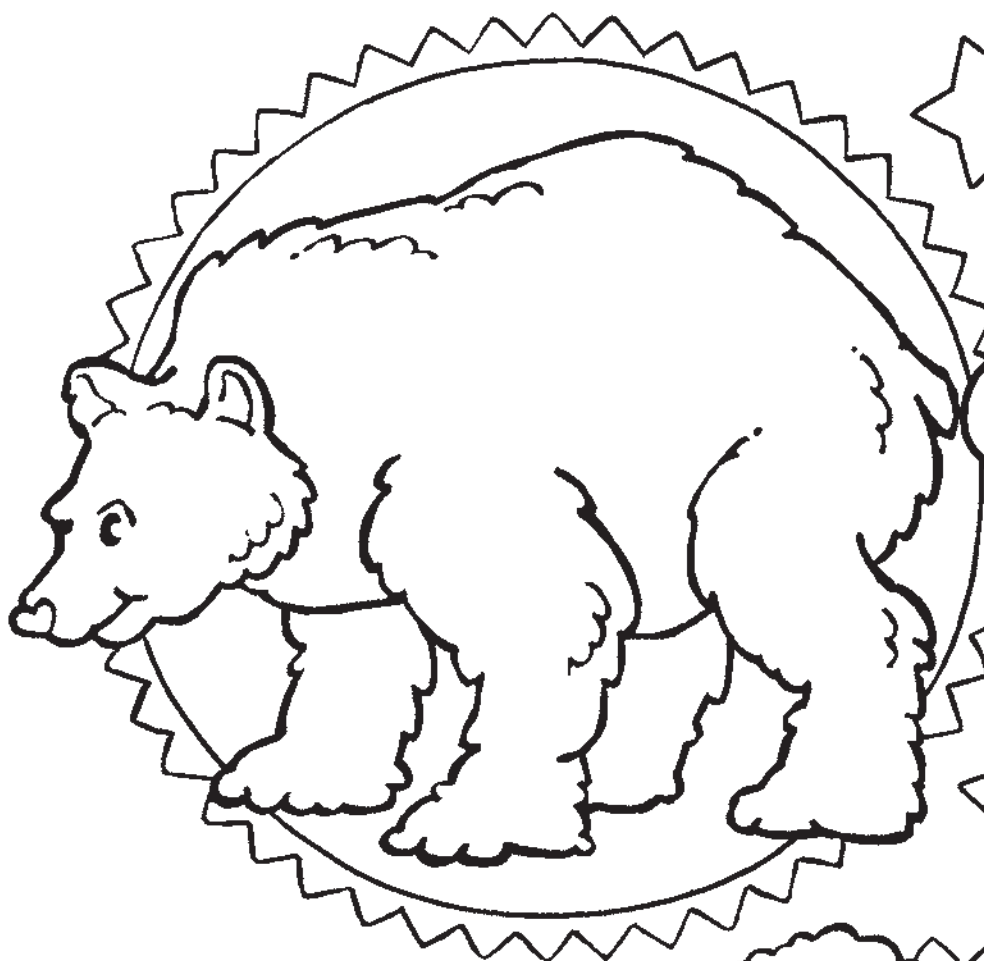
B L A W M E U A S G E
M I A Z T N W S P E S
V L L O X I A S E N E
E V V L S E A E A E N
T E Z G D E Y M K S A
O Q I V Y D M B E O T
C A P I T O L L R G E
K C G U X O F Y Y O O
G O V E R N O R R O Y
W U F W P A S S T D I

Find the following words from the word bank in the puzzle.
They may be up, down, horizontal, diagonal, upside down or backwards.

ASSEMBLY
BILL
CAPITOL
GOVERNOR

LAW
PASS
SENATE

SPEAKER
VETO
VOTE



State
Animal:

Grizzly
Bear

State
Flower:

California
Poppy



State
Bird:

Valley
Quail



State
Fish:

Golden
Trout



Compliments of...

MARIKO YAMADA

ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 8TH DISTRICT

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